HHD, ENG BDE Newsletter
"Headhunter Chronicle"

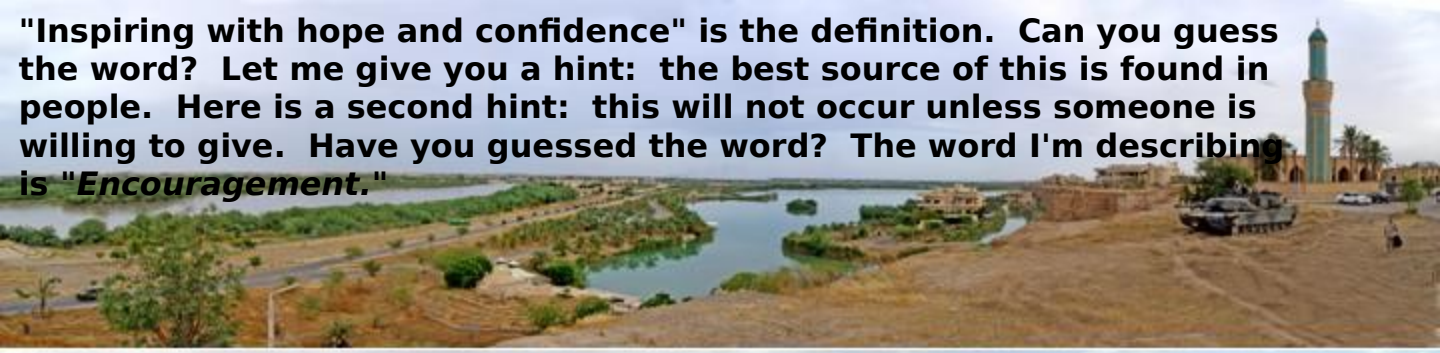
1 September 2004

Congratulations on the Newest Family Member!

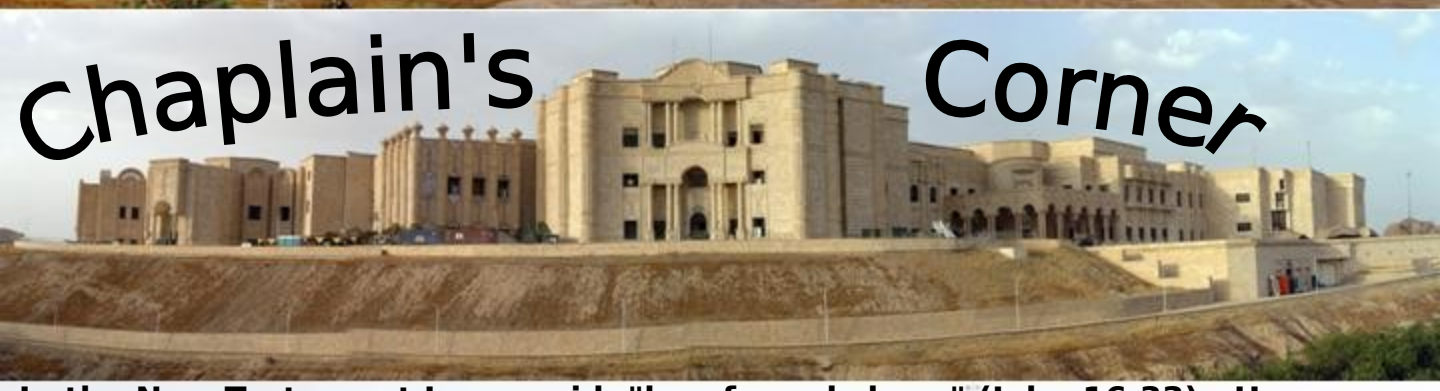
On 8 August 2004, Nia Olympia Nicole Williamson was born to Katrin Nies and SPC James Williamson. She was 6 pounds and 20 inches long. SPC Williamson was finally able to see her later that month while home on R&R! Congratulations! These are some of the pictures of Nia!

Over Half Way Thru! By CPT Halter

On the same day as Nia was born, HHD went over the halfway mark for the deployment! This is the point that everything turns downhill. Some of the highlights of this significant turning point include an increase in R&R slots. The HHD has been lucky in their August and September allocations. Just a couple days ago, 1s Infantry Division announced that they have worked hard to get the units the slots they need to ensure all those eligible will get R&R leave. So those of you who have been waiting to see their soldier for his/her couple of weeks R&R leave, their time is coming! Another exciting event that is happening is preparing our replacements for their deployment into the theater. 42nd Infantry Division from New York State will replace the 1st Infantry Division starting in December with an expected completed hand off sometime in February. The units within the 1ID will redeploy little by little. Some brigades will be on their way home before others so that there can be an orderly hand off. The bottomline is that there really is someone who will be coming to take your soldier's place in the mission here in Iraq. Now that September is here the incredible heat here in Iraq is slowly starting to decrease. Okay, so it is still over 110 degrees most days but the days of 120 and 130 degrees are slowly fading! It won't be long until you can expect your soldier to be asking for blankets, long underwear, cocoa, and anything else that will keep them warm! In another month you will be able to send chocolate again – just in time for Halloween! We know this deployment has been just as long for you at home as the soldiers deployed here. We thank you for hanging in there and sending us notes and boxes of encouragement!



"Inspiring with hope and confidence" is the definition. Can you guess the word? Let me give you a hint: the best source of this is found in people. Here is a second hint: this will not occur unless someone is willing to give. Have you guessed the word? The word I'm describing is "*Encouragement.*"



In the New Testament Jesus said, "be of good cheer" (John 16:33). He was encouraging his disciples to persevere even though the immediate circumstances appeared to be anything but hopeful. How could he offer this in the face of his own impending trial and crucifixion?

People need encouragement. If hope gets weak, the will to persist drops dramatically. The best source of encouragement comes not from a "sign" from the heavens, but from people like you and me. Do you know someone struggling through a tough time? Pull along side of them and give them a kind word of appreciation, or perhaps just be willing to listen.

Jesus passed good cheer along to his disciples for two reasons. First, he could see beyond the moment. Second, he knew he was not alone. He drew great strength from these and in turn was able to strengthen others.

In the same way today struggling people need assurance they can get beyond the present crisis. They need to feel the confidence that can come from the presence of one standing with them.

Do you know someone who could use a little assurance? Let me challenge you to share a bit of yourself with them. Help them to discover a bit of hope and confidence. Give some encouragement! CB

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Farewell to CPT Dan Young and his wife, Lori. They depart for Italy where Dan will take command of the Engineer Company in the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Farewell to SPC George McMichael and PFC Zacari Jackson. Both soldiers are being assigned to 82nd Engineer Battalion and the Bluebabe Team! Good luck everyone!

Not new to BDE but new to HHD: Hail to SPC Dwaine Crain, SPC Jacob Wazcovsky, SPC Jason Mahoney, PV2 Tyler Jones, LT Mike Miller, and MSG Robert Casteel. These soldiers come to us from the 82nd Engineer Battalion. SPC Wazcovsky and PV2 Jones have joined the PSD and SPC Crain joins the S3 shop. SPC Mahoney joins the DTAC. LT Miller joins the Project Coordination Office (PCO). His wife Crissie and daughter Kylie are in Bamberg. MSG Casteel works as a brigade battle captain. His wife Jennifer and Daughter Hannah are both in Bamberg! Welcome all!

Hail also to 2LT Aida Martinez and CPT Dan Meyers who made it to theater mid-August and CPT Alice Conner who transferred from G6! 2LT Martinez is working hard as the Assistant S2 while CPT Holt's on R&R. Her husband, 2LT James Pence, is a platoon leader with the 82 EN and her son, Joshua, is in the states with family. CPT Meyers joins the Project Coordination Office. His wife Sabine is in Bamberg. CPT Conner takes over the S6 position.

September R&R

HHD had 9 slots for September's R&R!

3 Sep 04 – SPC Mahoney

5 Sep 04 – SPC Urquhart and PFC Winters

13 Sep 04 – SPC Hoaglin, SFC Valiente, and COL Haight

27 Sep 04 – SPC Clark, SPC Wilbert, and CPT Keen

Things are looking good for October and November for those that are still hoping to see their soldiers for R&R!

Please send any picture or article requests to Headhunter 6, CPT Halter at *rebecca.halter@us.army.mil*.

Upcoming Events:

Family VTC: 4 September 2004

Happy Anniversary to:

Elena and Reynaldo Jallorina

Jamie and Steven Murphy!

Birthdays:

Happy Birthday to all the September babies back home to include: Jacob Englert, Michael Fannin, Michael McGill, Daniel Turpin, Kristina Tynon, and Pajhel Urbano!

Happy Birthday to the September babies deployed: SFC Thomas, SGT Cobb-Adams, SPC Scher, SSG Tynon, CPT Malone, SGT Valles, SGT Dockery and SSG Swanson!